

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 SY-04

USSS-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 CAB-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /086 W

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R 281030Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1908

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NS

SUBJECT: SURINAM LAW AND POLICY CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

REF: DEPARTMENT'S A-7676

1. FOLLOWING IS IN REPLY TO REFAIR.
2. RECORDS SEARCH BY GENERAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES
FAILED TO TURN UP ANY STATUTE OR REGULATION ON INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM WITH PRIMARY APPLICABILITY TO SURINAM.
3. TEXT OF DRAFT REPEAT DRAFT LAW IMPLEMENTING 1963 TOKYO
CONVENTION IS BEING POUCHED; SOURCES DID NOT KNOW WHEN PAR-
LIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MIGHT BE EXPECTED. SURINAM
IS ALSO PARTY TO 1970 HAGUE AND 1971 MONTREAL CONVENTIONS,
BUT NO IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION, DRAFT OR OTHERWISE, COULD BE
FOUND.
4. RECORDS SEARCH FAILED TO TURN UP ANY JUDICIAL DECISIONS
RELATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM; A 1971 ATTEMPTED HIJACKING
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CASE, APPARENTLY ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN SURINAM, INVOLVED A

DUTCH ARMY DRAFTEE, AND WAS PROCESSED BY COURT MARTIAL. DRAFTEE REPORTEDLY WAS IMPRISONED AT ONE TIME BUT IS NOW AT LIBERTY IN THE NETHERLANDS. SOURCES BELIEVE HE ACTED MORE OUT OF MENTAL INSTABILITY THAN POLITICAL MOTIVES.

5. GOVERNMENT SOURCES POINT OUT THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE WITH TERRORISM TO SPEAK OF PROSECUTION QUOTE POLICY AND PRACTICE UNQUOTE, ETC.

6. AS FAR AS SOURCES WERE ABLE DETERMINE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS BY PRESENT OR PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

7. GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AS SHOWN IN FOLLOWING EXAMPLE, WAS UNTIL RECENTLY VERY LAX AND TO LARGE EXTENT REMAINS UNCONCERNED. AIRPORT SECURITY AT ZANDERIJ WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY LACKING UNTIL REPORTS WERE RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER THAT TERRORISTS PLANNED TO HIJACK A KLM AIRCRAFT SOMEWHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA. IN RESPONSE TO THREAT, ONE DUTCH ARMY NCO AND TEN ARMED MEN WERE DEPLOYED AT ZANDERIJ. OTHER MEASURES, INCLUDING DESIGNATION OF LIMITED ACCESS AREAS AND ACQUISITION OF METAL DETECTORS, WHICH HAD LONG BEEN RECOMMENDED OR PLANNED BY ICAO AIRPORT ADVISORS AND ARMY, WERE HURRIEDLY INSTITUTED. BUT EVEN NOW, WHEN THERE IS STILL HEIGHTENED STATE OF SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS, AIRPORT SECURITY IS FAR FROM TIGHT; ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN LAST FEW WEEKS, AMERICANS WERE ALLOWED TO WANDER FREELY THROUGH THE RESTRICTED AREA ONTO THE RUNWAY APRON WITHOUT BEING CHALLENGED. (ARMY SOURCES INDICATE THAT TROOPS MAY SOON BE WITHDRAWN, CITING RECENT WITHDRAWAL OF SIMILAR DEPLOYMENT AT CURACAO'S ALBERT PLESMAN AIRPORT. TROOPS ARE TO BE REPLACED BY 20-30 ARMED GUARDS, WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; GUARDS ARE NOW BEING RECRUITED AND TRAINED.)

8. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS AN ACADEMIC ISSUE FOR THIS GOVERNMENT. IT HAS NEVER HIT HOME OR SEEMED TO REQUIRE TAKING PUBLIC STAND. CONSEQUENTLY, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS INCIDENT OR INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM INITIATIVE PUTS GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TO TEST, LATTER MUST REMAIN MOOT POINT.

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